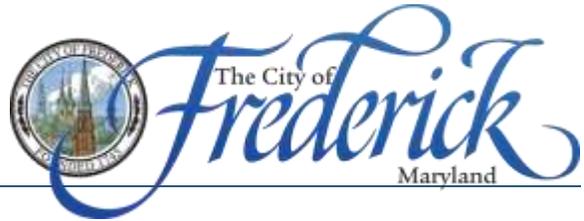


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NEWS RELEASE

Yard Waste Collection Increasing; Leaf Collection Program Changing

FREDERICK, MD – Sept. 7, 2018: Mayor Michael O'Connor announces that The City of Frederick will start weekly curbside pick-up of yard waste next month, a new service for residents and progress toward higher environmental protection standards.

Effective Oct. 1, 2018, residents' yard waste pick-up will occur on the same day as their currently scheduled solid waste (trash) pick-up. This new schedule will replace the current twice-per-month schedule for yard waste collection in their location. This change will be effective year-round.

"I am pleased to announce this resolution we've found to provide a highly valued public service and do even more to protect the environment," O'Connor said.

Coinciding with this change, the City will discontinue collecting loose leaves placed in the street, as has been the practice in previous years during the fall. All leaves must now be placed in paper yard waste bags or in reusable containers up to 35 gallons in size. Bags and containers of leaves may be set out along with other yard waste in accordance with the newly adopted collection schedule.

Why is the City making these changes?

Pollution Prevention

- The City is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to comply with Clean Water Act requirements and our Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit. The permit requires compliance with minimum control measures, including pollution prevention and good housekeeping.
- Leaves deposited directly into the street for collection are often swept by rainwater directly into our stormwater infrastructure, including swales, inlets, pipes and

culverts. Preventing yard waste from entering and clogging City stormwater infrastructure is considered part of a “good housekeeping” plan.

- The yard waste collected and kept out of our stormwater infrastructure may additionally be counted as credit toward other Phase II MS4 permit requirements.

Public Safety, Property Protection

- Minimizing the amount of loose leaves purposely deposited in our streets reduces the potential for leaves to cover and clog stormwater inlet grates and pipes. Clogged inlets and pipes increase the risk of flooding during heavy rain events. By taking this action, the City is actively reducing the risk of flooding to our residents and businesses.
- Eliminating large unsightly piles of leaves on our streets improves aesthetics and will free up parking spaces, which were otherwise lost during our previous fall leaf campaigns.

How can I help?

- Watch for upcoming announcements of the new yard waste collection schedule, and pass along the information to your neighbors.
- Combine leaves with other yard waste in approved containers and set out for collection on your designated solid waste collection days. Yard waste collection will be provided every week starting on Oct. 1.
- Consider alternatives to collecting leaves, including mulching and composting.

For additional information regarding these changes, please contact the City Sanitation Department at 301-600-1680 or 301-600-1377.

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